



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

JAMES W. STEWART, III
COMMISSIONER


*DEPARTMENT OF
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES*

Post Office Box 1797
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1797

Telephone (804) 786-3921
Fax (804) 371-6638
www.dbhds.virginia.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Individuals and Family Members of Individuals on the ID or DD Waiver Waiting Lists

From: James W. Stewart, III 
Commissioner, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

Subject: DBHDS Individual and Family Support Program

Date: March 18, 2013

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) is pleased to announce the availability of the newly established Individual and Family Support Program (IFSP). The IFSP program is designed to ensure that individuals with intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities (ID/DD) who live independently and families who are assisting family members with ID/DD have access to person-centered and family-centered resources, supports, services and other assistance.

The basic tenets of this program, which will be available to individuals with ID/DD who are on the ID and DD waiting lists and their families, are to:

- Keep families together until the individual with a disability chooses to live independently
- Enhance a family's ability to meet the many needs of the family member with ID/DD
- Improve the quality of supports to families while minimizing the need and cost of out-of-home placement
- Allow families to participate in recreational and social activities and,
- Make a positive difference in the life of the person with a disability as well as the lives of all family members.

The IFSP can provide up to \$3,000 to pay for resources, supports, services and other assistance that will assist eligible individuals to continue to live in their own/family homes. A family's eligibility for IFSP assistance is determined by the presence of a member with ID/DD who is on the waiting list for either ID Waiver or DD Waiver services.

An application for IFSP assistance is included with this memorandum. Funds will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis beginning July 1 of each year (current year begins upon receipt of this letter) until all available funds have been distributed.

Family supports are usually short-term person/family-centered resources, supports, and services that help to relieve the stress of care giving so individuals can continue to reside in their own/family home. The services and items that may be funded through the IFSP include:

- Professionally provided services and supports, such as respite, behavioral consultation, and behavior management
- Transportation services;
- Assistive technology and home modifications, goods, or products that directly support the individual;
- Temporary rental assistance or deposits;
- Fees for summer camp and other recreation services;
- Temporary assistance with utilities or deposits;
- Dental or medical expenses of the individual;
- Family education, information, and training;
- Peer mentoring and family-to-family supports; and/or
- Other direct support services as approved by DBHDS.

You may submit your completed IFSP application through fax (804-692-0077) or mail to:

DBHDS
Individual and Family Support Program - Room 939
1220 Bank Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Further information about the program and its limits and requirements please go to:

<http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/ODS-default.htm>.

I hope that this new program will provide much needed support to individuals with ID/DD and their families.

Attachments

c: Olivia Garland, DBHDS Deputy Commissioner
Heidi Dix, DBHDS Assistant Commissioner for Developmental Services
C. Lee Price, DBHDS Director of Developmental Services
Cindy Gwinn, IFSP Manager